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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--17 AUGUST 1963

1. SOUTH VIETNAM:

A. DIEM'S BUDDHIST PROBLEM IS GETTING WORSE AS THE SERIES OF SUICIDES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ATTRACT THE SYMPATHY OF MORE AND MORE PEOPLE.

B. THE GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY, WHILE PUBLICIZING A POLICY OF CONCILIATION, TO CLAMP MARTIAL LAW ON TWO COASTAL CITIES INVOLVED IN THE MOST RECENT RITUAL BURNINGS. THERE HAVE BEEN CLASHES BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE DEMONSTRATORS IN BOTH PLACES.

C. SAIGON IS FULL OF RUMORS THAT FURTHER TROUBLE IS LIKELY, POSSIBLY EXTENDING TO A COUP ATTEMPT. [REDACTED]

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D. [REDACTED]

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E. [REDACTED]

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2. MALAYSIA:

A. THE UN SURVEY TEAM ARRIVED IN NORTHERN BORNEO YESTERDAY WITH THE OBSERVER ISSUE UNRESOLVED.

B. THE BRITISH ARE STICKING TO THEIR DECISION TO PERMIT BUT TWO FROM EACH OF THE MANILA POWERS. THE PHILIPPINE AND MALAY OBSERVERS ARE SET TO ARRIVE ON THE SPOT TODAY.

C. THE INDONESIANS, WHO WANTED TO SEND TWENTY, HAVE SAID THE BRITISH LIMITATIONS ARE "RIDICULOUS AND COULD CAUSE TROUBLE", AND HAVE PRESSURED THE BRITISH FOR A MORE LIBERAL FIGURE. AMBASSADOR JONES DOES NOT THINK THAT THIS WILL BE A STICKING POINT FOR DJAKARTA AND THAT INDONESIA WILL ACCEPT MALAYSIA.

D. INDONESIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM IS NOT AT AN END, HOWEVER.

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3. ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA:

A. FIGHTING BETWEEN SOMALI INHABITANTS OF EASTERN ETHIOPIA AND ETHIOPIAN TROOPS HAS FLARED UP AGAIN.

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B. ADDIS ABABA HAS SENT ADDITIONAL TROOPS INTO THE AREA AND HAS, SAY THE SOMALIS, BEGUN TO USE HEAVY WEAPONS AND AIRCRAFT AGAINST THE ENDEMICALLY DISSIDENT TRIBESMEN.

C. THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT DENIES ANY COMPLICITY IN THE FIGHTING AND HAS SUGGESTED AN INVESTIGATION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER BY OBSERVERS FROM COUNTRIES FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD ETHIOPIA.

D. WE HAVE BEEN COUNSELLING RESTRAINT IN THE TWO CAPITALS AND NOW LEARN THAT HAILE SELASSIE HAS AGREED TO SEND A GOOD WILL MISSION TO THE SOMALI REPUBLIC AT A DATE YET TO BE SET.

4. HAITI-CUBA:

A. AS FOREIGN MINISTER CHALMERS HURRIEDLY LEFT PORT-AU-PRINCE YESTERDAY FOR THE US TO PRESS CHARGES THAT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ABETTED THE RECENT "INVASION", THE SMALL REBEL BAND [REDACTED] TOOK TWO MORE OUTPOSTS IN NORTHEASTERN HAITI.

B. COUNTER-ATTACKS TO RETAKE THE POSTS WERE BEATEN OFF

C. THIS LOOKS TO US MORE LIKE A SMALL-SCALE GUERRILLA ACTION THAN THE SIGNAL FOR A SUSTAINED MILITARY DRIVE AGAINST THE HAITIAN DICTATOR. IT DOES INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT CANTAVE STILL HAS A FORCE IN ACTION.

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D. HE MAY GET SOME HELP FROM AN UNSAVORY CUBAN EXILE NAMED MASFERRER. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HE AND CANTAVE HAVE A "MUTUAL ASSISTANCE PACT."

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E. UNDER ITS TERMS MASFERRER PROVIDES CANTAVE WITH ARMED SUPPORT AND GETS A BASE FROM WHICH TO OPERATE AGAINST CUBA IF CANTAVE SUCCEEDS.

5. NOTES:

A. CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE): THE DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE SUBSIDED FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF A CIVILIAN CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WHICH IS TO PAVE THE WAY FOR NEW ELECTIONS THREE MONTHS HENCE. THE LABOR LEADERS WHO FASHIONED YOULOU'S DOWNFALL SEEM CONTENT FOR THE MOMENT TO REMAIN INFLUENTIAL FIGURES IN THE BACK ROOMS.

B. CUBA - TEST BAN: AMBASSADOR KOHLER HAS BEEN STRUCK BY THE ABSENCE IN SOVIET COVERAGE OF THE TREATY OF ANY SUGGESTION THAT CUBA WILL SIGN OR ANY CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM CUBAN LEADERS. KOHLER THINKS THAT THE SILENCE FROM HAVANA REVEALS DIFFERENCES IN CASTRO'S INNER CIRCLE ON JUST HOW TO PLAY THIS ONE.

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C. CUBA - US [REDACTED]

(CONT'D)

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D. COMMUNIST CHINA - SOMALI REPUBLIC: TOURING SOMALI PREMIER ABDIRASCID CAME AWAY FROM PEIPING WITH AN INTEREST-FREE CREDIT OF NEARLY TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS. HE ALSO GOT THREE MILLION IN DIRECT BUDGETARY SUPPORT, THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS' FIRST UNDERTAKING IN THE BUDGET SUPPORT FIELD. THE AGREEMENTS MUST STILL BE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN MOGADISCIO. [REDACTED]

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E. COMMUNIST CHINA: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] MOST OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAD RESPONDED TO PEIPING'S CALL FOR A WORLDWIDE SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN A "RUDE OR CHURLISH" MANNER. [REDACTED] THE EXPULSION OF CHINESE COMMUNIST NEWS AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES FROM PRAGUE [REDACTED]

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